

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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SUBJECT: UN EDUCATION ACCOUNT: NKUMBI INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

REF: STATE 238469

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED UN EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNT FOR NKUMBI WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER AND WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MINED) LIAISON JAN OLESEN. WE HAVE CONVEYED TO BOTH DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER DELAYS IN SUBMITTING QUARTERLY REPORTS AND HAVE URGED MORE TIMELY SUBMISSION IN FUTURE.

2. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 3 REFTEL FOLLOW:

A. DURING 3D QUARTER CY 75 70 STUDENTS WERE ASSISTED AT RATE OF DOLS 500 EACH FOR TOTAL OF DOLS 35,000.

B. ESTIMATED COST OF 4TH QUARTER CY 75 IS SAME: 70 STUDENTS AT DOLS 500 APICE, OR DOLS 35,000.

C. NO RPT NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS NEEDED TO CARRY EXISTING PROGRAM THROUGH CY 75. UNHCR ZAMBIA IS OPERATING ON BASIS OF LETTER OF INSTRUCTION FROM UNHCR GENEVA AUTHORIZING IT TO EXPEND UP TO DOLS 200,000 IN CY 75. DEMMER CONSIDERS THIS AMOUNT ADEQUATE TO MEET COSTS OF PROGRAM THROUGH 4TH QUARTER CY 75 AT PRESENT LEVEL OF 70 - 75 STUDENTS.

3. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTUAL STUDENT COSTS AT NKUMBI AND USG
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CONTRIBUTION IS NOT RPT NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT VACANCIES

IN PROGRAM. FIGURE OF 54 VACANCIES IN EFL AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS USED IN LUSAKA 1239 ACTUALLY REFERRED TO TOTAL VACANCIES OPEN TO REFUGEES AND NOT JUST TO THOSE FUNDED BY USG. REAL REASONS FOR VACANCIES ARE LACK OF INTEREST IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES AMONG QUALIFIED REFUGEES, SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS, DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES ON MINED TO INCREASE NUMBER OF PLACES IN NKUMBI ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT EXPENSE OF NON-RESIDENT REFUGEES, AND DISPUTES WITHIN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OVER ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE YOUTH BETWEEN ACADEMIC/VOCATIONAL AND MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS. MOREOVER, BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN MINED AND UNHCR LUSAKA, FORMER HAS BEEN BILLING UNHCR IN CY 75 AT RATE OF DOLS 2,000 ONLY FOR EACH USG-FUNDED REFUGEE STUDENT AT NKUMBI RATHER THAN AT HIGHER RATE OF KWACHA 1492 (DOLS 2328) CHARGED OTHER SPONSORED REFUGEE STUDENTS THERE. DEMMER SAID SHE HAS BEEN ALLOTTED ADDITIONAL FUNDS BY UNHCR GENEVA TO MAKE UP DIFFERENCE BUT CURIOUSLY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO DISBURSE THESE FUNDS TO MINED.

4. DEMMER STATES SHE HAS ALSO BEEN INHIBITED FROM PLACING ADDITIONAL STUDENTS IN VACANT USG-FUNDED SLOTS BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF OUR LEVEL OF FUNDING THROUGH CY 76. UNHCR PLANNED USE USG-FUNDED ALOTS FOR 24 NAMIBIANS SELECTED TO BEGIN 18 MONTH CLERK-TYPIST COURSE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED BEGIN IN JULY 1975 BUT WHICH ACTUALLY GOT UNDER WAY IN SEPTEMBER. REDUCTION OF USG FUNDING TO MAXIMUM OF 85 STUDENTS DURING LATTER HALF OF CY 75 COMPELLED DEMMER TO FUND THIS PROGRAM OUT OF OTHER MONIES. SHE WOULD BE PLEASED TO FUND THEM DURING CY 76 OUT OF USG ACCOUNT BUT DOES NOT WISH TO DO SO UNLESS GIVEN FIRM ASSURANCE OF USG FUNDING AT 100 STUDENT LEVEL THROUGHOUT CY 76. DEMMER CONFIDENT THAT WITH ASSURED LEVEL OF FUNDING, SHE COULD FILL AT LEAST 98 OUT OF 100 SCHOLARSHIPS IN THIS PROGRAM.

5. ALTHOUGH SHORTFALL IN AMOUNT OF USG-FUNDED STUDENT BURSARY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR REDUCED NUMBER OF REFUGEE PARTICIPANTS IN PROGRAM, NEVERTHELESS CONSIDER THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD INCREASE AMOUNT OF BURSARY PAYMENTS PER STUDENT DURING CY 76. BEGINNING WITH NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN JANUARY DEMMER WISHES TO HAVE UNHCR FUND ALL REFUGEE STUDENTS AT NKUMBI AT CURRENT HIGHER RATE OF KWACHA 1492 EACH, THUS ELIMINATING PRESENT ANOMALY WHEREBY USG-FUNDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUDENTS PAY LESS. FOR UNHCR TO DO SO WITHOUT DIPPING INTO SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES WILL MEAN EITHER LIMITATION OF USG FUNDING IN CY 76 TO MAXIMUM OF 85 STUDENTS OR ELSE AN INCREASE IN USG FUNDING TO DOLS 233,000 TO SUPPORT MAXIMUM OF 100 STUDENTS AT HIGHER RATE.

6. INCIDENTALLY, MINED PLANS INITIATE IN JANUARY 1976 AT NKUMBI COURSE FOR 32 NAMIBIANS IN FIELDS OF AUTOMOTIVE AND AGRICULTURAL

MECHANICS. IUEF HAS MADE DOLS 310,000 CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PURCHASE OF TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS. IUEF, UNHCR, AND POSSIBLY UN FUND FOR NAMIBIA EXPECTED PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP AID AT COST OF KWACHA 1396 (DOLS 2178) PER STUDENT PER YEAR. SHOULD SHORTFALL BE REALIZED IN FUNDING FROM THESE SOURCES, POSSIBLE THAT UNHCR MAY SEEK INCLUDE AS MANY OF THESE NAMIBIANS AS POSSIBLE IN USG-FUNDED SLOTS.

7. IN CONCLUSION, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER FAVORABLY (A) INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY TO AT LEAST 100 AND (B) INCREASE IN INDIVIDUAL BURSARY PAYMENTS FROM DOLS 2000 TO DOLS 2328 FOR CY 76. IN ANY EVENT STRONGLY URGE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACTION TO ALLOCATE USG CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR WELL BEFORE END OF CY 75 SO THAT UNHCR GENEVA LETTER OF INSTRUCTION CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO UNHCR ZAMBIA PRIOR COMMENCEMENT OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN JANUARY.
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